

# Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

April 29, 2013

[www.op97.org](http://www.op97.org)

## Important Dates

May 1-10	MAP Testing
May 15	Robert Crown Field Trip
May 17	Transition Picnic
May 23	Trish Quane Family Event
May 29	Completion Ceremony

## Dear Families,

The end of the school year is fast approaching! Please make sure you have completed the following as soon as possible.

- Sign your child up for electives. This can be done by going to the Brooks website.
- Sign and return the permission slip for the transition picnic along with the \$6 fee.
- Make sure your child is wearing deodorant. The fifth grade teachers will thank you!

Below are the date for MAP Testing.

	Reading	Math
5K	5/9	5/6
5M	5/6	5/1
5P	5/7	5/8
5Y	5/6	5/3

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## SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

**Art** - This week we will be painting on the the final details onto our kiln-fired presidents. Look for photos on the artblog. We are beginning a drawing project where we will learn how to emphasis the focal point or center of interest in our artwork through leading lines and contrast. Also, for students attending the lock-in, we will be painting the 5th grade mural during the lock-in. Please have your student bring painting clothes or a smock.  
[www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com)

**Music** - [Check out the website!](#) We are continuing our big Theme and Variations project this week. Students will learn to play the theme of the assignment on the recorder and then create their own variations by changing different musical aspects of the piece. Each student will have their own packet for this assignment. They will work on making one variation by themselves. I will make suggestions on this variation by Wednesday and then allow them to work with me on Friday at 11:30 to improve their assignment. They may also take the assignment home to make corrections and bring it back by Friday. More details about the whole assignment will be available on the music website this week.

**Chorus** - The Wolves game is Sunday March 17th! Details will be sent home this week about where we are meeting and at what time. If you can give a ride, please email [akaria@op97.org](mailto:akaria@op97.org). We will be singing "Don't Stop Believing" at the game.

Click here for the karaoke track:

[Don't Stop Believing Audio](#)

And here for the lyrics"

[Don't Stop Lyrics](#)

**Spanish** - Students have completed all assessments from the last story about Juan the bombero and watched recordings of their skits. They will be starting a new story this week.

<http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/>

**Library** - There is still one more chance to participate in Reading Olympics this year, and that is with the EXTREME competition! This competition will take place on Wednesday, April 18th at Holmes and will feature all 18 books. In order to compete, you must have been in either the spring or the fall competition (or both). The district Extreme competition is Tuesday, April 23 and will be all day at the Oak Park Public Library.

In other library news, we're continuing to read RJ Palacio's *Wonder* during library time. Take a look at the Wonder website for information about this amazing novel, <http://choosekind.tumblr.com/>. Choose kind! For more on library happenings, please keep up with us on the library home page (<http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>).

**Physical Education** - Please see Mr. Williams' link ([www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com](http://www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)) for information.

### **Reading/Literature**

The focus in reading this week will be on identify themes in literature. The students will determine the theme of different pieces of literature and use textual evidence to explain their answers. We will also be focusing on determining the structure of informational text using clues from the text.

### **Language Arts**

During the month of April, students will learn how to form an argument. They will take on the role of either a patriot or loyalist during the American Revolution, write an essay arguing their position, and then participate in a debate within the classroom.

### **Math**

We will continue to work with fractions and mixed numbers this week. Our focus will be on multiplying fractions and mixed numbers. Just a reminder that students will be working out of an orange booklet rather than using the Everyday Math materials. There will be a short quiz on Friday covering the topics discussed during the week. MAP testing will begin this week. Over the next two weeks, all 5th grade students will be tested on both math and reading.

### **Science**

This week, we will learn about the nervous system and how the brain and spine control the central and peripheral nervous systems. We will have a short quiz on Friday. Students must continue to complete science workbooks, including Cornell notes and lab reports. Thanks to all the parents who helped us dissect hearts last week. This Thursday, we will dissect eyeball. We look forward to seeing our volunteers!

### **Social Studies**

This week we will focus on the War of 1812 and the Star-Spangled Banner. Students will use the Smithsonian Institute's website to gather information on the Star-Spangled Banner, and end the week by illustrating a portion of the poem by Francis Scott Key.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

**We're on the Web!**

*Visit us at:* <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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